

ER 10-4917.a

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2 JUL 1958

Cover
Honorable John E. Moss, Chairman
Government Information Subcommittee of the
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moss:

With reference to the conversations between members of your staff and Mr. John S. Warner concerning certain points made in our letter to you of 2 January 1958 and your inquiry of 23 June 1958, I have the following information to provide you.

The sentence in the 2 January letter which was subject to misinterpretation was: "Translations and abstracts of the Soviet scientific literature made in CIA or by contract during Fiscal Year 1957 totaled 32,667 pages." This figure included both classified and unclassified material from all countries. The unclassified portion was 21,776 pages of which 17,239 pages were directly attributable to the Soviet scientific literature.

The estimate for the Fiscal Year just ending of 35,000 pages was made in the same letter. About 7,000 pages of classified material were included in that estimate, thus the unclassified portion was estimated at 28,000 pages of which 25,000 pages would be from Soviet materials.

I should like to clarify a point made in your letter where you ask whether the percentage of Soviet scientific documents classified after translation has been reduced as a result of increased interest in the flow of scientific information. My policy has been that the mere act of translation will have no effect on the classification of a document. If the source document is unclassified, the translation is unclassified. If classified evaluation must be included for intelligence purposes, then the translated document in which the evaluation has been included must be classified even though the source document is an open publication. However, translation of the document without the evaluation included, remains unclassified.

ER
(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE *Cong*)

With respect to your question as to whether the ratio of unclassified to classified documents translated through CIA efforts has changed in recent months, the proportion of unclassified translations has substantially increased. Our present estimated annual rate of translation of unclassified Soviet scientific literature is 30,000 pages. This increase in production may be attributed to several factors: a) increased availability of Soviet materials; b) improved and enlarged facilities for contractual translation; and c) increased requirements for translations from the intelligence agencies.

With respect to the latter point, I think I should make clear that CIA-produced translations are made only in response to requirements submitted by one or more of the intelligence agencies.

Sincerely,

SEND

Allen W. Dulles
Director

CONCURRENCES:

[Redacted]

DD/I

[Redacted]

AD/CR

[Redacted]

Legislative Counsel JUL

[Redacted]

AC/FDD

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DAD/CR: [Redacted] mtc (27 June 58)

OGC/LC:JSW:mks (28 June 1958)

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

The attached proposed letter to Chairman John Moss is in response to his letter of 23 June 1958. In the letter signed by General Cabell to this same group on 2 January 1958 it was determined that we had made an error in lumping classified as well as unclassified translations in a total figure of translated pages available to the public. We brought this error to the attention of the Committee staff and they suggested the desirability of their addressing a further letter to us asking for clarification of possible interpretations.

Recommended signature.

John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel

2 July 1958
(DATE)

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FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

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<p>Corrected in accordance with our telephone conversation and cleared with</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 60px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: right;">John E. Warner</p>			
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